

□ WASHINGTON, DC- Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) today secured \$600,000 in critical funding for research at Oregon State University aimed at improving the health of salmon in the Klamath River salmon. This funding will help put fishermen, struggling due to recent closures of the salmon season, back to work. The fishing industry is vital to the coastal Oregon economy. The salmon season has been closed or significantly curtailed the past three years due to the continued decline in salmon returning to the Sacramento and Klamath Rivers, which typically make a significant contribution to the Oregon fishery. Approximately 3,000 licensed commercial salmon fishermen in Oregon and California depend directly on Klamath River Chinook Salmon production for income. Healthy fish runs also support the recreational fishery and the guides, motels and restaurants on the coast and in the Klamath basin.

“This program is critical to restoring a healthy salmon population on the South Coast. Our fishing communities are suffering under recent closures,” DeFazio said. “Without projects like this one, the closures of the salmon season will continue and Oregon, fishing communities will continue to suffer and we will lose an important asset to the state economy.”

The funding was included in the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Act of 2010, which passed out of Subcommittee today. The measure now must be considered by the full Appropriations Committee.